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Ever Heard of a Stroopwafel?

ELIZA BRYANT
CONTRIBUTOR

Envision two chewy waffle-esque sugar cookies with a syrupy layer of caramel sandwiched in between. Imagine what it would be like to not only eat this treat, but to place it atop the rim of a mug filled with a warm beverage, allowing the interior caramel to become melted and the cookie to become infused with the flavors of the beverage. And then to eat it.

Stroopwafels, or “syrup waffles,” originated in the Netherlands over two hundred years ago when a baker serendipitously combined scraps

from his bakery and sweetened them with syrup. Since they were inexpensive make, they were especially popular among the poor. Today they are still eaten by the Dutch, traditionally for breakfast to accompany coffee or tea. According to some sources,

to stroop-guarded parent recreate

wafel recipes are closely secrets, passed down from to child, and difficult to from scratch.

At Connecticut College there are now three lo-cales—Coffee

Grounds, Blue Camel, and Oasis—that sell these delicacies, made by the brand Rip van Wafels, which was created by a Dutch 2010 graduate of Brown University. As a sophomore, Abhishek Pruiskien, also known as “Rip”, was feeling homesick and decided to bring a piece of the Netherlands back with him to Brown.

His peers could not get enough of the treat. He began testing recipes on his own in his dorm room in between classes and finally settled on a recipe, which his friends deemed tastier than the stroopwafels that he had brought back from Holland.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4



PHOTOS FROM WEB

Occupying Potomac: Another Brick in the Wall Street

DEVIN COHEN
ARTS EDITOR

Whether or not one agrees or disagrees with Occupy Wall Street, the globally embraced movement has sparked a much overdue conversation over the role of corporate greed in American democracy. But why now? Why not back in 2008, during the height of the financial crisis? Credit default swaps, unprecedented leveraging of corporate funds and institutions betting against the market they were creating were indicative of corporate greed even at the time. Maybe it took three years and a few scathing documentaries to stir the pot of angst. Maybe it took three years of a dismal housing market, stagflation and cyclical unemployment for Americans to realize the effect Wall Street can have on their lives. Or maybe it took three years of government lap dogging to Wall Street for Americans to realize it's not that they won't do anything, it's that they can't.

Occupy Wall Street has produced droves of protestors who are angry about the influence of money in politics, even though this problem has been ever present within our system. As money influences politics, and politics generally boils down to money, it will be shocking to see any law formulated within Congress that handcuffs Wall Street autocrats. Money shouldn't keep a bill that levels corporate greed from getting to President Obama's desk, but its formidable sway on legislation can't be ignored. Wall Street's accepted presence on Capitol Hill is not just emblematic of money's influence upon our system, but how our system invites money to affect politics.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 7



MIGUEL SALCEDO/STAFF

Fall Dance Club Show

PAGE 10

Ending Homophobia in Athletics

MEAGHAN KELLEY
MULTIMEDIA EDITOR

In order for a sports team to be successful, there must be a strong team dynamic of camaraderie and support both on and off the field. Athletes need to know that when they are on the field, track, or rink, they have a coach and a team behind them every step of the way. Unfortunately, for many LGBTQ-identified athletes, this support is not there.

On Tuesday, November 1, the Diversity Peer Educators hosted a panel entitled “Homophobia & Athletics” to discuss the presence of discrimination against LGBTQ athletes on campus and in the general sports arena. Elena Rosario '14, a member of the rugby team and the women's track and field team, as well as an identified ally, developed the panel as part of her final project as a Diversity Peer Educator. Members of the panel included Dr. Jen Manion, assistant professor of history and director of the LGBTQ Resource Center and assistant professor of history, Courtney Dumont '14, and Tyler Brice '13.

Dr. Manion began the discussion with a presentation defining heterosexism and homophobia and providing a brief history explaining how gays and lesbians have been treated in athletics in recent history. Quoting heavily from Suzanne Pharr's “Homophobia: A Weapon of Sexuality,” Manion offered a theoretical context for the discussion.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 11

Indoctrination in Mubarak's Egypt: A Children's Story

ETHAN HARFENIST
OPINIONS EDITOR

As uprisings in the Middle East continue to rage on in countries like Yemen and Syria, the Arab world is still very much on the minds of the international community. In the last year alone, we have borne witness to the toppling of decades-long dictatorships in Tunisia, Egypt and, most recently, Libya. A new era is unfolding in the region, and the epoch of despotism is rapidly waning. But how did these governments last for so long in the first place? One method of control was propaganda.

Muhammad Masud, a PhD

candidate at the University of Illinois, spoke to an eager crowd of professors and students in the Charles Chu Room about indoctrination and propaganda in Hosni Mubarak's Egypt. His research focuses on the role children's books played in effectively brainwashing the youth of Egypt from their adolescence, particularly those books published under the Reading for All campaign of Suzanne Mubarak, then-First Lady of Egypt.

Masud began his lecture by describing the Reading For All Festival, an initiative launched

in 1991 by Mrs. Mubarak that attempted to provide books to the underprivileged classes of Egypt as well as to persuade children and their families to use libraries. Funded directly by the Egyptian government, the initiative was in spreading enthusiasm for reading all across the country. In fact, from 1991 to 1992, the number of libraries participating in the program increased almost tenfold, and that number continued to increase until 2010.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 5



PHOTO COURTESY OF WAED ATHAMNEH

IN THIS ISSUE

NEWS



5 | The Munchie Truck Unveiled and Explored

OPINIONS



6 | In Consideration of Dorm Damages

ARTS



10 | Deer Tick's New Album "Divine Providence" Reviewed

SPORTS



11 | Aaron Davis Masters Mind and Body

EDITORIALS /// LETTERS

THE COLLEGE VOICE

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Editorials

I spend most of my days in the same sweater, reading the College Voice archives. I relish seeing the font size shrink, the article lengths grow and the ever-changing masthead. I was revisiting the papers of my sophomore year when I reread former EIC Lilah Raptopoulos' opinion article "SW6385: Dover White," the color of her room. She wrote about the student-administration dyad that permeates almost every complaint about our institution: students solicit change that the school cannot always provide, yet the administration doesn't always readily present explanations of their decisions. Conscious of this, Lilah suggested a stronger sense of communication between students and both sectors of management—the student-led (SGA) and the college-led—in order to sustain a real dialogue.

This inspired a letter to the editor from Corey Testa '10, then J-Board Chair and a member of the SGA executive board, who countered that both administrative bodies actively provide students with information about their inner workings, through venues like emails from College Relations and SGA On the Can, but students choose to ignore them, thus remaining uninformed. The next week, Opinions Editor Alfred Degemmis '10 responded to Corey's letter, averring that Lilah's point was not to attack SGA in the least: she was encouraging students to educate themselves before making an informed complaint, and to do it constructively. Alfred implored all branches of Conn's leadership—not just SGA and the Voice—to work in tandem, to take the combative comments and mold them into something that will incite a collaborative change.

Last spring, Jamison Hermann '11 told me it was the first time in his memory there wasn't an editor of the paper in the SGA assembly. While news editor my junior year, I was also on the SGA executive board for the fall semester. Nate Cornell '11, then the SGA president, told me at the beginning of my term that some of the other executive board members were worried I'd joined solely to infiltrate the executive board and report back to the Voice. I joined, however, because I wanted to learn exactly what SGA did—my knowledge garnered from being a house senator and quick conversations with members of the executive board didn't cut it. Wasn't I fulfilling my student responsibility?

This year, my interaction with SGA has been limited. I had lunch with Ted Fisher '12, SGA Vice President, and Alicia Cauteruccio '12, Chair of Honor Council, which, while it provided me with a greater insight into what SGA was discussing and doing, only happened once. Later, I met with Dorian Ehrlich '13, the Chair of Communications, and we had a conversation so riddled with SGA jargon that I doubt I would have understood if I hadn't been on SGA in the past.

Last Monday, SGA President Diane Essis '12 and I had lunch at the Coast Guard Academy. Separated from the rest

of the visiting group, we entered the room last. Diane and I sat with a few cadets, discussing significant matters—like if there is a similar stigma against Conn students at the Coast Guard—as well as smaller differences in our day-to-day existence. Elizabeth Tatum, our host, was fascinated about our availability of apartment-style living; Diane and I were impressed that "sleeping-in" constitutes an 8 AM alarm.

Both Diane and I simultaneously came to the same conclusion: the students of both institutions needed to work towards building a better relationship, and that any strife between the two schools is baseless and counterproductive. We turned to an easy alternative from the current norm: get students together in productive, intellectual, entertaining environments to create harmony that will stick around into early Sunday mornings. I offered an email compilation of weekly campus events to forward to the cadets; Diane suggested that the Student Activities Council create events specifically to attract Coast Guard attendance. We left the Academy feeling optimistic and productive, though vaguely hungry.

Our conversation showed that both SGA and the Voice have a lot in common: we are both active, student-led organizations with a desire to learn more about our college and change it for the better. Both organizations require time, effort and critical thinking; both are representatives of student opinion and desire. Yet any possible interaction has been stifled because of inactivity, both on behalf of the Voice and SGA, and an inherent assumption that the two need to be at odds. Though the aforementioned SGA-Voice interaction was less than pleasant, their opinions were variations on a single theme: students need to be better represented and informed.

The conversation between Lilah, Alfred and Corey demonstrated that there needs to be a constructive dialogue between the Voice and SGA. Let's actually have one. This is our second issue in which we've run an SGA blurb in our News section, which students can read to be kept up to date on the previous week's SGA meeting. I'm disappointed, however, that our interaction is thus far limited to a single column on page five. So SGA, I encourage you: come to our meetings to find out what we're all about. Bring article ideas or cookies. Stop by during production, or shoot a writer an email about your thoughts on an article. I promise to recruit my staff to further an issue raised in an article by bringing it to a meeting or sit down with you for a meal. Let's work harder at combining our forces to achieve our similar goal.

- Jazmine

Free Speech

To the Editors of the College Voice:

I'd like to offer a response to the question posed in the advertisement printed on page 9 of last week's Voice. Was Shakespeare a fraud?

No.

You wanted more?

Okay, here it is. No, Shakespeare was not a fraud. The film advertised, Roland Emmerich's *Anon*, advances the opinion (I will not call it a theory) that, since Shakespeare had "only" a grammar-school education, he could not possibly have written the plays attributed to him. The author of the plays, the filmmakers argue, must have been the Earl of Oxford, Edward de Vere, and there must have been a vast, wide-ranging conspiracy to hide his authorship. Periodically, people will suggest that someone other than Shakespeare wrote Shakespeare's plays. (In addition to De Vere, candidates have included the essayist and politician Francis Bacon, the poet Mary Sidney, and the playwright Christopher Marlowe.) All the so-called evidence that someone other than Shakespeare wrote the plays is circumstantial, while the evidence for Shakespeare's authorship is direct and—while it has limits—extensive. We have no manuscripts of his plays, but then we have no manuscripts of plays by Marlowe either (and we don't even have a portrait of Marlowe). Shakespeare's name is on the title pages of many of his plays and on the title page of his collected works, the so-called "First Folio" published by his actor friends in 1623. Numerous playwrights and others attest to his authorship (including Elizabeth's Lord Chamberlain, who calls him Shaxberd, but that's another story). Shakespeare left money in his will to several other playwrights to buy mourning rings, a gesture that suggests a close personal relationship and reinforces the

idea that he was an important part of Renaissance London's active theater scene.

I have not seen the film, so I can't speak to the specifics, but, should you wish to know more about the historical inaccuracies in the film, see Holger Schott Syme's blog at <http://www.dispositio.net/archives/449>. (Syme is a professor at the University of Toronto.) The most glaring, and the most problematic for "Oxfordians," is the fact that De Vere died in 1604, before many of the plays were written, including *Macbeth* and *The Tempest*.

I'm certainly not bothered by historical inaccuracies as such (or I wouldn't be able to handle Shakespeare's *Richard III*, which plays fast and loose with history in a truly scary way). What bothers me about this film is that it tries to have it both ways, so to speak. On the one hand, the filmmakers ignore history and historical evidence. On the other, they want us to believe that they, and they alone, have the historical facts correct. Since the film is being vigorously marketed to high schools and colleges (including, if the half-page ad in the Voice is any evidence, ours), I think I can expect many students in the coming years to arrive in my Shakespeare classes with the idea that Shakespeare's authorship is actually in question. I'm happy to disabuse you of this notion if you hold it (though I'm certainly not accusing the Voice of advancing Oxfordianism or faulting the Voice for accepting the ad). But I'd really rather talk about more important questions. For example, why is the key "question," for Hamlet, "to be or not to be"? Shouldn't it be "to be or to do"? Or "to kill or not to kill"?

Sincerely yours,
Lina Perkins Wilder
Assistant Professor
Department of Literatures in English

I am deeply troubled by sophomore Kelly Franklin's attempt at satirizing the Frisbee team's choice in naming its home tournament last week. Satire aims to ridicule something that is flawed; and pressure the target of the satire to change their ways. I am of the opinion that had Ms. Franklin done more research; our name choice would not be an object for satire, but a smart choice.

Ultimate Frisbee is a product of the counter-culture movement in the late 1960s and the sport's history has reflected that. Today, the highest level of collegiate frisbee nationwide is still the club level, with the sport's American governing body, USA Ultimate sanctioning all tournaments and organizing national championships. USAU is not the NCAA though, and individual club teams are responsible for scheduling and promoting their own tournaments on USAU forums. In deciding to name our tournament the Connecticut Hammer Massacre, we did NOT consider the potential response from Conn students. Rather, we name our tournament

in a way that will attract attention on USAU message boards and ideally attract more teams to come play at our tournament. The more teams that come to our tournaments the more we gain, as tournaments are a fundraiser for us. Witty names help us attract a large contingent of teams to help us meet our fundraising goals as a club. What disappointed me most about Ms. Franklin's article was her lack of contact with the team prior to publication. She did not attend any of our practices, the tournament that she attempted to lampoon and only spoke to our team captain. Despite the abundance of information he provided her, the only details she mentioned in is that hammer is a type of throw and that we have team uniforms. This entire piece seemed to be based on her perceptions of the Ultimate team, without actually taking time to learn about us. The suggestion that we are looking for a PR person is not only just a bold-faced lie, but also not in any way funny. It implies a deep incompetence on our part, which flies

in the face of all of our recent success. I suggest that if Ms. Franklin truly believes that we need positive advertising around campus, she could have written an honest and informative article, not one that is scathing and deceitful.

Is it typical for Opinions pieces to be students ripping student clubs for their choices in naming their events? Should I submit a piece attacking the Voice for not making the term J-Day more understandable to those unaffiliated with the newspaper? I do support Frisbee coverage in the paper, as this is typically one way for our club to gain positive exposure to more members of the college community. However I believe that coverage of Dasein should be in the Sports section. If the Voice ever needs to fill space, feel free to contact me, I'll be more than happy to share the team's experience of finishing last season ranked eleventh in Division Three nationwide.

James Cutler '12

Dear Editor,

The 31 October article "Ghost, Ghouls and Gallows: The Paranormal at CC" very briefly (and, unintentionally, unclearly) summarized comments I made at a program in Larrabee Common Room about the existence of, and cultural thinking about, ghosts. As a professor who teaches a course on the supernatural, it is very important to me that students understand my academic position on the ontological status of these phenomena and so I would like to take the opportunity to explain in fuller detail. In studying the way that ghost stories and experiences work in American society, I have found it very useful to adopt a position of agnostic skepticism (which I differentiate from disbelieving skepticism). As I said during the program, the vast majority of "ghost experiences" of which I am aware can be explained without any recourse to the supernatural; and the ones which for which I have no easy explanation are ambiguous rather than providing any definitive proof of ghosts' existence. Moreover, even if

one could prove that "ghosts" do exist in some way, I have no good reason to think that the phenomena so described would automatically be dead people.

That said, I think that we too often assume a simple yes/no answer to the question of whether ghosts exist, and assume further that those with whom we disagree on the matter are either overly credulous, foolish, or even maliciously motivated. My position is that we can, and should, debunk whenever possible, but that we should take people's firsthand experiences seriously as reports of what they believe they encountered, and not automatically rule out any conclusions. Usually, the data allow for easy debunking, and sometimes, the data from said accounts is not easily debunked (often because it's almost impossible to test). During the program on 28 October, I recounted personal experiences (and how they could be interpreted), but I do not, therefore, endorse the belief in ghosts. I think we can study what people say about ghosts, and the various cultural and psychological contexts for those

accounts, without automatically saying yes or no to whether those accounts are ontologically accurate.

For example, human beings are apparently predisposed to ascribe agency to the world around us, so that we regularly feel that objects have intentions, that there are "presences" around us, etc. The neurological psychological evidence on this matter provides an explanation for why people might think that an invisible person is in the area. On the other hand, the evidence does not provide definitive proof that this neurological perception tendency is what is always going on when people "see" or "feel" ghosts. It's plausible, but our willingness to accept that plausibility as definitive (or inadequate) proof for/against the existence of ghosts tells us more about ourselves than about "ghosts."

Sincerely,

TJ Wellman



HANNAH PLISHTIN/ PHOTO EDITOR

Best Staircases on Campus

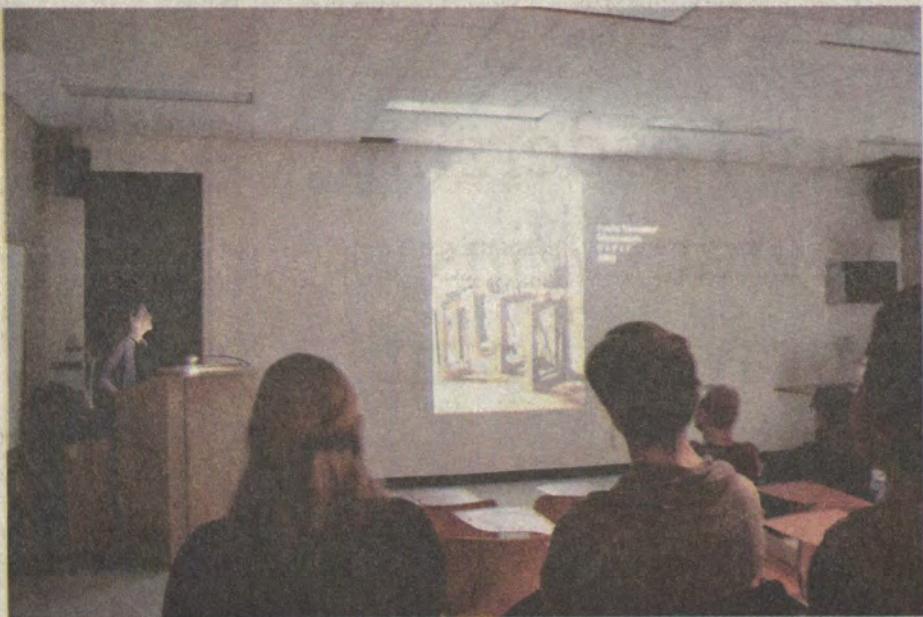
To see more or submit your own, go to thecollegevoice.org



KARAM SETHI/ STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Lynn Richardson Lecture

Richardson's "Academy of Uncommon Gardens" explores issues of climate change through art.



PHOTOS BY HANNAH PLISHTIN/ PHOTO EDITOR

This Week

Monday

Lecture: Professor Farah Jasmine Griffin on the Great Migration, the history of jazz, and black women writers

4:30PM | Charles Chu Room

Lecture: "When Johnny and Jane Come Marching Home: How All of Us Can Help Veterans"

4:30PM | Bill 106

Tuesday

Klagsburn Symposium: What the %@&! Happened to Comics?

7:30 PM | Palmer Auditorium

Native American Heritage Month: featuring speaker Winona LaDuke

6 PM | 1962 Room

Wednesday

Being Alive: A Talk in Three Acts

4:30 PM | Charles Chu Room

Buddhist Meditation

5:15 PM | Harkness Chapel

Music of the First Decades

7 PM | Evans Hall

Thursday

Taking the Mystery out of Medicare

12 PM | Blaustein 208

Pizza and Profundity

3 PM | Blaustein 208

Libya: Inside a Revolution

4:30 PM | Chu Room

Friday

Honor Council in Action: A Mock Hearing on Academic Integrity

11:50 AM | Cro's Nest

FNL: Northstar Sessions

10 PM | Cro's Nest

Film Screening: "Pavilion"

4:30 PM | Blaustein 210

NEWS /// FEATURES

SGA
News and
Minutes

DORIAN EHRLICH
SGA CHIEF OF
COMMUNICATIONS

CC Dissent: Last week, the assembly discussed supporting CC Dissent and their involvement with Occupy Wall Street. The vast majority of the assembly demonstrated vehement opposition to formal support of CC Dissent, a non-affiliated student organization. Many in the opposition felt that CC Dissent should have brought forth a formal resolution asking for support and that the discussion about offering support was inappropriate without this formality. The small minority of proponents asked SGA to put aside their personal feelings towards Occupy Wall Street and focus instead on the virtues of Dissent's political activism. After much discussion, SGA came to an unofficial consensus that before discussing granting CC Dissent an official stamp of support, CC Dissent should revise the language of their letter of purpose.

Resolution 9 and 10: Resolution 9 addresses the lack of guidelines for mid-semester senator replacements while Resolution 10 overrides the necessary referendum for C-Book changes that will be made regarding this issue. The new installed guidelines read that elections for a replacement will be held in the next house council, unless the senator stepped down forty-eight hours before the next house council. Until a replacement is elected, the senator is responsible for either showing up to his or her meetings, or finding a replacement.

Resolution 11: This resolution declares SGA's support for designating funds for new furniture in dorms. The idea is to look to replace the oldest furniture first, particularly the furniture in Abbey.

Resolutions 12 and 13: These resolutions support changing the name of the SGA Executive Board to the SGA Operations Council, and override the referendum on corresponding C-Book changes. These resolutions were tabled indefinitely, amid the apparent opposition to these changes from the majority of the assembly as well as Dean Briddell.

Resolution 14 (now known as Resolution 12): After having this issue on its docket for over two years, SGA passed a resolution to support funding for more automated external defibrillators (AEDs) on campus. This has been an issue for some time, as Conn currently only has one AED on campus and therefore fails to meet the accepted requirements for two working AEDs. AEDs are estimated to cost roughly \$1,600 per unit.

Resolution 15 (now known as Resolution 13): The Educational Planning Committee (EPC) is working with administration to reevaluate our general education requirements. These requirements haven't been updated since the mid-1980s, with the exception of the addition of the required freshman seminar. Resolution 15, which passed successfully, establishes a task force to look into this specific issue. The Chair of Academic Affairs, Mihir Sharma '12, and the Chair of Diversity and Equity, Juan Pablo Pacheco '14, will co-chair this task force. There are spots for two assembly members and at least two students-at-large on this task force, to be elected by the assembly next week.

Warnshuis Solar Panel: Elias Kauders '12 raised concern about the proposal for erecting a solar panel on the roof of the Warnshuis Center, citing that the panel would comprise a mere 0.1-0.2 percent of total energy use at the College. Elias brought forth an alternate plan; with the help of funds from administration, Connecticut College can build a more powerful solar panel on either the roof of Cro, Harris or Lambdin that would provide 1% of total energy use on campus.

Dorm Stigma: Justine Keller '13, Chair of Residential Affairs, is looking to provide REAL with information about any existing dorm stigmas on campus. Justine asked every senator to raise this issue in their house councils, and the senators reported back that there are overwhelming sentiments that the dorms in south campus have had loud parties while Blackstone is the "nerdy" dorm and Burdick is the "loser" dorm.

Ever Heard of a Stroopwafel?

The culinary creations of one Ivy League student reach Coffee Grounds and other cafés on campus

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Upon returning to Brown in the fall of 2009, Pruiken set up a stroopwafel iron on the Main Green, which confirmed their popularity. Over his winter break that year, Pruiken visited eight stroopwafel factories in the Netherlands and observed how Dutch professionals made them. In the spring semester he put his new knowledge to work and began producing in higher volume to sell stroopwafels at Brown and RISD. Soon, cafés around Providence began asking for van Wafels, as they came to be known.

The operation intensified and Pruiken found that he needed more advanced machinery to keep up with demands. He created a customized stroopwafel iron prototype with the assistance of a professor and a group of engineering students and, using Kickstarter.com, managed to raise over \$20,000 of working capital.

At this point, Pruiken needed a business partner and in spring 2011, his friend Marco De Leon, Brown '12, teamed up with him. "I was coming back from a semester abroad in Brazil and looking to get involved in something different," said De Leon in an email. "Abhishek and I were good friends and decided to give the business a shot. We put together a business plan in April and ended up winning the Brown Startup Competition [Brown University Business Plan Competition]. Since then, we developed the new packaging, boxing, recipe and figured out a way to scale up." A

couple months later, De Leon gave up his Wall Street job offer and a month-and-a-half ago the Rip van Wafels operation relaunched.

De Leon recounts, "Business (especially the food industry) is incredibly dependent on personal contact. We've spent many nights on friends' couches, slept in our car a few too many times - all while trying to sell Rip van Wafels at different places. But that has also been the most rewarding aspect because we can see first hand what we are creating."

The two entrepreneurs have succeeded in bringing stroopwafels to the United States and they appear to have an eager and ever-growing market for their enterprise. De Leon and Pruiken acknowledge that their experiencing represents the illustrious narrative of prosperity, in which one achieves both happiness and personal fulfillment through self-determination, known as the American Dream. De Leon says, "At the heart of it, our largest motivation is freedom. We wanted to have the freedom to create something and pursue something that we were passionate about. We both turned down finance jobs and have decided that this is what we want to pursue in the long term."

Rip van Wafels is already quite



PHOTOS FROM WEB

Science Leadership
Program Wins
Major New Grant

DAVID LIAKOS
NEWS EDITOR

The college's Science Leadership Program, meant to encourage and mentor women and minority science students, has won a \$100,000 grant from the Lloyd G. Balfour Foundation, a charitable trust managed by Bank of America in Boston. Grants from the Balfour Foundation are meant to "promote college readiness, access and success for underserved populations," especially at New England colleges, according to the Foundation's listing at Bank of America.

The Balfour grant will supplement funding from the federal National Science Foundation, the primary source of funding for the program since its founding in 2007. Past Balfour recipients have included Boston University, Tufts and MIT. The Balfour Foundation has given almost \$10 million in grants to universities and colleges since 2003.

According to chemistry Professor Marc Zimmer, the faculty leader of the program, the grant will be used to fund scholarships over the next two years for future science students at Connecticut College, particularly those from backgrounds traditionally "underrepresented in the sciences."

The Science Leadership Program seeks diversity of gender and race as well as of economic backgrounds. Thus, need-based financial aid from the college is a requirement for eligibility in the program. While any freshman science student can apply to the program, women, minorities and financial aid recipients are the most likely to be accepted, according to the program's website.

In addition to the new scholarships afforded by the Balfour grant, the Science Leadership Program also provides special "mentoring and support," career counseling and graduate school appli-

cation assistance. Science Leaders also enroll in a special freshman-year seminar meant to foster a sense of community and to provide an initial basis for completing majors in the sciences.

Science Leaders are also encouraged to enroll in relevant internships, to present and teach at high schools and summer camps in order to encourage science education and to engage in volunteer local community development programs.

The class of 2012 includes the first crop of Science Leaders to graduate. Rabia Nasir '12, a pre-medical student, chose to attend Conn based on her interest in the program, which she credits with enabling her to "get involved with various research projects, present at regional and national conferences and publish a book chapter as a first author."

Such opportunities to attend conferences and conduct research are among the most popular and beneficial options afforded to Science Leaders. Samuel Alvarez '12 notes that in attending science conferences through the program, he was able to "meet many people that I don't think I would have met if it weren't for the Science Leaders Program."

Senior Student Leaders have expressed excitement about the program's future thanks to the Balfour grant. Alvarez credits Zimmer with much of the program's success, predicting that he "is going to use the money very well considering that he has done a great job so far with less resources."

Nasir is also optimistic about the program's prospects, saying that the Balfour grant puts the Science Leadership Program "one step further on the path to fulfilling its goal of increasing the number of women and minority students pursuing degrees in the sciences."

prevalent on campus. Co-manager of Coffee Grounds Café, Liz de Lise '13, says, "People are excited to see something new and colorful on the counter. Some know what [stroopwafels] are and go crazy when they see them. I think people like the idea of being involved in the product they are buying. With a stroopwafel you don't just eat it cold, you put it on top of your coffee cup and watch the magic happen."

De Lise notes that it is important to her to support business endeavors that she respects. Rip van Wafels "in particular was intriguing because it's not just some random product, it's something that is representative of [Pruiken]'s culture and background. Customers should be exposed to other cultural experiences even if it is on as small a scale as a melty waffle."

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Indoctrination in Mubarak's Egypt: A Children's Story



An image from a book assigned under the Reading for All program in Egypt.

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

At this point, Masud played a commercial for the program to the audience that showed Egyptian families sharing tender moments with books, children nuzzling up on comfortable chairs and smiling while their parents read to them. The music was soft and the mood was warm. “Notice the high production values, the quality,” said Masud. Clearly, a lot of money was spent on trying to sell this program to the Egyptian population. Masud noted that many Egyptians criticized the program as unnecessary or superfluous, inquiring as to why there was a Reading For All movement when there wasn’t even water or bread for the whole population. Masud went on to briefly summarize six children’s books published under Reading For All. “In this series, the stories are constructed in a way that reflects the adult’s perspective of what is good or bad, or right or wrong. The adult point of view that the series adopts is, of course, the same as that of the state.” Since the adults reading to their children had already been indoctrinated by the state, Egyptian families were further training their children to act in accordance with the government by reading these books and propagating their messages. The books had little to no story line to speak of, and were extremely simplistic in their approach. Topics covered ranged from classroom obedience to Egypt’s treaty with Israel. This rudimentary style of writing was a result of Mubarak’s regime vastly underestimating the critical thinking ability of Egypt’s youth while being fully aware that proselytizing must be introduced

during childhood in order to breed “normal” and “obedient” citizens. This combination of tainted children’s books and the trained adult mouthpiece for them was the capstone of Masud’s talk. “This formula has children’s literature accomplish a cleansing effect by offering a world of normalization that denies the existence of any oppression. It says, ‘this is who we are; this is how our world looks like and that is how we must act.’ There becomes no other way of existence.” Yet in hindsight, the people of Egypt knew that there was another possible existence and fought in the streets for it, which made the talk all the more fascinating. All of the information presented at this lecture was a result of Masud’s independent research on the topic, a theme he felt was too often ignored while studying despotism in the Middle East. Paige Cowie ’12, an International Relations major in the crowd, noted, “It was an interesting insight into a seemingly harmless and positive reading program in Egypt that actually had a much larger agenda attached to it.” Claire Brennan ’13 said, “The lecture made me reconsider all of my notions about the Arab Spring and how propagandizing is bred in authoritarian regimes.” Masud’s talk demonstrated the need to look backward while simultaneously looking forward in analyzing the Arab Spring to fully comprehend events on the ground. Although the Mubarak regime in Egypt was thinking they were breeding obedience and a trained population, the reality was quite different – proselytizing can only influence citizens, not mold them. •

PHOTO COURTESY OF WAED ATHAMNEH

New London's Newest Eatery... On Wheels

LIBBY CARBERRY
STAFF WRITER

The Munchies Food Truck that can be found in the Arboretum every Friday at 3 PM is more than just a fun way to spend lunch while recovering from thirsty Thursdays: the new business is the epitome of sustainable food and enterprise so at odds with the corporate and factory-heavy manufacturing of today’s food industry. Owner and chef Aiman Saad and his wife and co-owner Manal understand fast food, and that McDonald’s and Burger King aren’t the only cheap, fast option for food.

The truck is also an experiment to push local government to stay timely and supportive of local business. The process of receiving updated permits to park and sell Munchies products is a lengthy process, but not one that supersedes the \$80,000 investment in the truck. To Aiman, low-quality factory-produced meat is not the only way to make inexpensive food.

“We wanted to be different,” he said. “Everyone out there is selling the cheapest product just to make a profit. Our food is Lebanese comfort food, and Manal and I grew up in America so we’ve got the burgers, soda, the fries, the ice cream ... McDonalds and Burger King are giving you the cheapest quality meat, why does it have to be like that?”

The couple, both raised in the New London area, grew up around food. Aiman’s family, for example, was born into a family-run gourmet Middle Eastern restaurant that was very popular in his neighborhood. When Manal and Aiman met, they realized they both had a passion for good food. After having two children, the couple spearheaded what could become a trend: sustainable and mobile fast food.

“We didn’t want to get bogged down with a restaurant. We wanted to be able to go anywhere. We didn’t want all those surveys and spending money on bar tax and waiters. With the truck you cook the food, and hand it to the customer. I can make a good sandwich, I can make a good soup and just serve it,” he said.

The business began last year, launching at Conn on April 20. After a successful summer catering to beachgoers, the most attainable goal in sight for Munchies is securing permits to come onto campus on Thursday nights to serve hungry collegiates with the munchies.

“I’ve been hoping to get into the college market more,” Aiman said. “The arboretum is cool, but it’s only cool when people are down there. We’re out of the way. That’s the closest you can get without being invited in. It’s taken a while but it looks like we’re finally going to get in.”

Munchies Food Truck takes sustainable food processing extremely seriously. Their website, for example, has a strongly-worded “Real Food pledge,” that promises, “We refuse to use anything artificial, only minimally processed, healthy, wholesome ingredients.”



The truck only purchases meat from a local butcher who grinds from a single livestock. “If you go to Stop ‘n Shop, you don’t know where the meat is coming from. [Our butcher] grinds one piece of chunk for us, and it’s a high quality product,” Aiman said. The chefs also only cook with trans-fat-free oils.

The all-natural basis of the business would not be possible, however,

really keep the business going is more than the just food. The warmth and availability of the owners, who understand the community-driven benefits of family-run business, know their customers will come back because of the intimate customer-service. “We owe you lunch!” Aiman insists to customers as they walk away. •

HANNAH PLISH/PHOTO EDITOR

Zombie Attack Coming to a College Campus Near You

AMBER VILLANUEVA
STAFF WRITER

Humans vs. Zombies, a popular game on campus sponsored by the Gaming Club, kicked off this Sunday and will continue until the final mission takes place on Friday. Conn’s page on the Humans vs. Zombies website describes the game as “kind of an elaborate, long, drawn-out version of tag” in which humans endeavor to protect themselves from being eaten by zombies. Humans protect themselves by shooting at the zombies with Nerf guns and hitting them with rolled up balls of socks in order to stun the attackers for fifteen minutes. To stay in the game, zombies must feed on humans every forty-eight hours. By eating humans, zombies create more zombies, in turn making remaining a hu-

man in the game progressively more difficult. Andrew Steel ’14 expressed his enthusiasm for the game. “Something about shooting people with Nerf guns is very exciting. If you enjoy the insane paranoia, torturing yourself and your friends, then Humans vs. Zombies is the game for you.” Humans must identify themselves by wearing visible bandannas on their arms or legs. Humans that are caught and turned into zombies must wear bandannas on their heads at all times. The game is about more than just trying to survive a zombie apocalypse; it’s about victory. Kim Marker ’13, a moderator for the game, advises participants to not quit the game if they become zombies, saying,

“you haven’t experienced the game until you’ve experienced being both a human and a zombie.” In spite of a game rule that states “guns may not be used against non-player civilians,” many students who do not participate in the game have complained about having been shot. Isabel Hibbard ’14 prefers to stay out of HvZ after observing how hectic it was last year, saying, “I was shot at and I wasn’t even playing.” Although the spirit of the game is supposed to remain generally lighthearted, many participants take it very seriously. Erika Stockwell-Alpert ’14 noted that she “apparently had a reputation for being completely insane last year.” “The game is as much fun as

you make it,” continued Stockwell-Alpert. “It’s whatever you want it to be — with zombies.” However, all students playing the game must remember to be respectful or else they risk being eliminated. The importance of this rule is illustrated in the second rule on Conn’s Humans vs. Zombies website: “Observe Wheaton’s Law: Don’t be a dick.” The game begins with one original zombie who is picked at random from a group of volunteers. This original zombie is the only one who is able to make his first kill while disguised as a human, with a bandana on his or her arm. There are two possible outcomes in HvZ — either the zombies starve and the humans win, or the zombies win if there

are no humans remaining. During each of the six days of the game there is an assigned mission, the difficulty of which increases each night. The most challenging of the missions takes place on the final night, and the outcome of this mission determines what group will win the game. The goal of most of the missions is to retrieve prizes or objects, such as a potion to revive two of the transformed zombies on the human side. Many students complain that the game is too stressful or that they don’t have the time to devote to it, but Marker called it “a straight adrenaline rush for six straight days — it’s both wonderful and horrible.” Tess Mikolajczak ’15 believes that “it’s a great way to meet new people, especially as a

freshman,” because the game’s appeal transcends class year divisions. Ellery Wiebe ’12, a senior now playing her sixth game, explained that her reason for playing “is meeting people you would have never met but who you obviously have something in common with.” According to Evelyn O’Regan ’14, “it’s good preparation for when a real zombie apocalypse happens.” Although this interpretation might seem somewhat fantastical, Humans vs. Zombies is a fun, stress-relieving (or perhaps stress-inducing) game that many Conn students enjoy every semester. “Ideally, we would like the entire campus to participate,” said Steel. “We want to make this as realistic as possible.” •

OPINIONS

Lessons from Libya: A Crash Course in Idealism

KYLE DAVID SMITH
STAFF WRITER

Great change is in the cards for Libya in the wake of the eight-month Libyan Civil War, which culminated in the death of Muammar al-Qaddafi and the end of his forty-plus-years dictatorial reign on October 20. Many questions still remain about the conflict itself and where the Libyan people are to navigate from here on.

Despite the obvious absence of Qaddafi as a direct threat to the Libyan people, it does not necessarily indicate that Qaddafi as a leader is now out of the minds of the majority of the population. Pro-Qaddafi loyalists still exist in Libya and in bordering states and threaten Libya's quest for stability. Though it is hard to imagine that this threat is long-term, it must be noted that continued fighting will make it much harder for Libyan leaders to establish peace and maintain order, especially considering that even without Qaddafi loyalists, Libya is a highly factionalized state. One of the biggest questions coming from foreign analysts and within Libya itself is whether a unified state with a majority-supported leader is even an attainable short-term goal.

Translating regional militia leadership united against Qaddafi into a government brought together for the good of Libya will be no small order. Will individuals be able to put down arms and practice democratic statecraft? It's hard to know at this point in time.

Despite questions over Libyan stability and shock over the moral ambigui-

ty of Qaddafi's death as the defining moment of the new Libya, foreign investors and businessmen are increasingly eager to settle down in a cozy office building in Tripoli, Benghazi

Libya finds itself in a desirable position for the future, but it cannot be forgotten that oil is a commodity veritably tied to conflict, especially in the Middle East.

dafi, Libya and the problems that existed there. While today I know much more—having spent months reading articles, watching the news and keeping up to date with developments even

in terms of historical magnitude, but in terms of energy they have nonetheless been awe-inspiring. The Arab Spring has demonstrated what has not been so easily seen in America during my lifetime. The practice of democratic ideals is dependent on allowing people to exercise their political frustrations. It is the will of the people as a whole and the consent they give that ultimately decides what actions are acceptable and unacceptable. Although it may take great time and energy, and in some cases blood, the will of the people cannot be suppressed permanently by any course of action that deems itself greater than the will of the majority.

While these lessons and others congruent to them are ever present in the overarching congress of American idealism, the direct correspondence of these democratic ideals to real-world events has made them more tangible to me than ever in the wake of the revolts in the Arab Spring, and to the greatest degree in the Libyan Civil War. And while the fact of the matter may indeed still be that the future of Libya is dependent on a number of questions far more important than questions of represented idealism, it is my opinion that these questions mustn't be overlooked, neither in Libya nor in other parts of the world. Idealism is the belief in the possibility of a better existence. While this belief is nothing without action, the events in Libya have demonstrated that with action and idealism, a better existence is not out of reach for any group of people in any part of the world. •



Libyan protesters demonstrating against Muammar al-Qaddafi.

or Misurata for the long haul. While nation building is reliant on economic support, the question remains over whether monetary influx will help Libya more than it will further the divides and increase the instability. Sitting on Africa's largest oil reserve,

Questions about Libya are endless and most are unanswerable, especially to someone who is not an expert on the country (such as myself). I must admit that before the Arab Spring conflicts broke out almost a year ago I knew little about Muammar al-Qad-

as they played out in real-time—I still do not claim to have the answers. I can't say what course of action will be the savior for Libya.

The Arab Spring events may not live up to the events witnessed by my grandparents and great-grandparents

Clean Up, Camels!

Mounting Dorm Damages Raise Concerns

KELLY FRANKLIN
STAFF WRITER

Anyone who lives on campus is acutely aware of the pain of dorm damages. This year the weekly Saturday night rampage is hitting certain dorms particularly hard. However, these "hilarious antics" are starting to step on too many camels' toes.

It happens. It's a Saturday night, you and a bunch of your bros have had one too many Natty Ices. Maybe you think it would be hilarious to steal an exit sign from Branford, or karate chop the ceiling in Johnson. Maybe you wake up the next morning in a haze reminiscent of *The Hangover*, not remembering anything and having to piece together why your hand is covered in ceiling tile and why there's an exit sign mixed in with the empty cans in your trash.

Once the events from your drunken rampage start to flash back, the responsible and respectable thing to do would be to own up to your actions and pay for the damages. Now, I realize that spending \$300 on broken exit signs sucks, but you know what sucks more? Making everyone in the dorm pay for it. Often times, the people who actually live in the dorm aren't the ones damaging it;

other people are coming in, wreaking havoc and ultimately paying nothing.

The small number of people responsible for all the damages is capitalizing on one tiny loophole: there is no way to prove anything. There are no dorm cameras, because I'm pretty sure that's illegal. There are no designated dorm security guards monitoring the drunken escapades of students. So, in lieu of cameras, I have come up with a system of punishments for the dorm damagers.

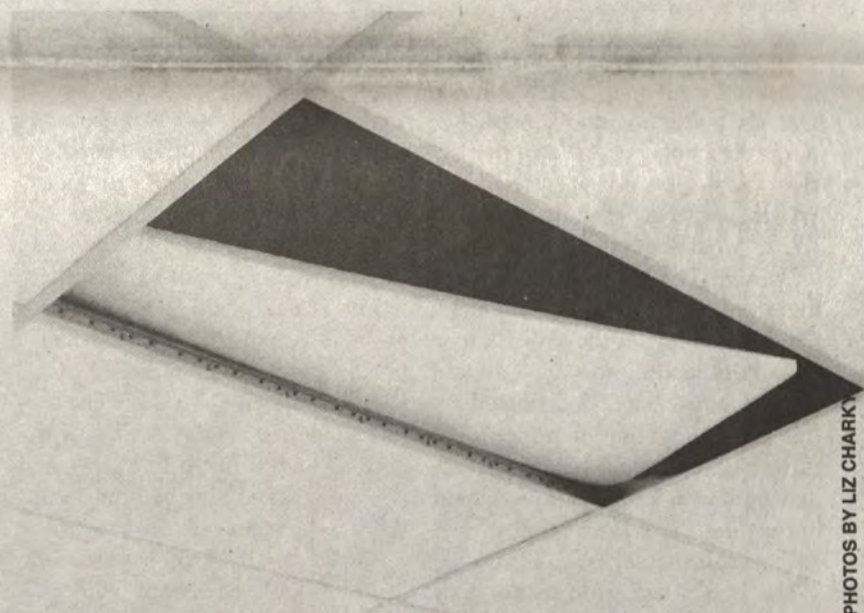
First-time offenders will be forced to pay for the damages. Second-time offenders will be forced to both pay the damages and buy pizza for the entire dorm as the offender watches from inside a tank filled with snakes. Anyone who dares to inflict any more damage on a dorm must pay one million dollars, purchase pizza for the entire campus and be put in stocks in the middle of the green for the whole of winter break.

But seriously, at a school that makes each student sign the Honor Code pledging to the community that they will be respectful, why should any precautions or punishments be necessary? If you wouldn't cheat on a test or punch a hole in the wall of

Cummings, why do students think it's acceptable to destroy the "home" part of campus?

This is a question that has haunted the minds of administrators for ages. Sure, it's only a couple bucks a semester. But if there are 1,900 students at Conn, and let's just say, for example, that dorm damages average twenty dollars per person a year, that's \$38,000 we're unnecessarily spending. So, as a student body we are collectively spending enough money to buy a car or get a decent band for Floralia on something completely unnecessary.

Sure, accidents happen. A building holding up to one hundred college students is bound to experience some basic wear and tear. But exit signs being ripped down or bathrooms and common rooms being destroyed by puke and beer cans is not normal wear and tear. So clean up your puke, recycle those empties and don't punch holes in the wall. It's really not that difficult. If you're smart enough to go to Conn, you're smart enough to know not to act like a cross between the Incredible Hulk and Alan from *The Hangover*. •



A gaping hole in the Wright hallway.



James Finucane '13 attempting to study outside of Larrabee without the aid of the recently removed wooden tables.



A plywood board covering a broken window in Larrabee House.

Google's Brand New View

JERELL MAYS
OPINIONS EDITOR

Google is kind of intimidating when you think about it. Since the company's launch in September 1998, it has grown from a useful search engine to one of the most convenient and widely used online resources in the world. Google generates billions of dollars annually and, if you've been on the Internet at all in the past ten years, the odds are pretty high

will appear on your computer screen as well, whether he's checking his watch or picking his nose.

Basically, if you're doing something embarrassing in public, there is technically a minute chance Google's cameras will pick it up and display it on the Internet. Now, the chances of this are incredibly low. However, go ahead and

a chain of people in order to block the advance of a Google Car. At first I considered it an overreaction, but this recent news has me reconsidering. Is Google overstepping a privacy boundary?

Before I spread any paranoid notions of a future in which Google's cameras are being installed into every street-light, let's be fair. The service will only



A Google Street View Car responsible for the 360-degree images found on Google Maps.

that Google has either helped you with a homework assignment, given you directions or satisfied some nagging curiosity of yours. As a culture, we've come to rely on Google as our first source of information; I know I consider anything that requires research beyond a single Google search to be "time consuming." With dozens of online services in place, and a foothold in the smartphone and television market, Google's growth only seems to be increasing.

You might wonder how this is "intimidating." Consider this: Google Street View, a function of Google Maps, allows users to obtain 360-degree street level images of various parts of the world. It's pretty amazing; you can sit at a computer in Connecticut and observe a street level view of Tokyo in seconds. The images are in picture form so whoever is standing on that street in Tokyo

type Google Street View into Google Images (and yes I do realize the irony of using Google to incriminate Google): what appears is an incredibly strange collage of images depicting human life on Earth. Google Street View has caught everything from crimes to public urinating—in fact, there's an awful lot of the latter. Google obtains these street level images through the use of Google Cars: vehicles with cameras mounted on tall stands. I've never seen one driving around, but if I did I would probably strike a pose, as I could end up on the Internet that evening.

However, not everyone has my sense of humor. When Google recently announced that it's street view service would be making it's way inside certain buildings, I can almost understand how, back in 2009, residents of Broughton in Cambridgeshire, England once formed

be offered to businesses, who can now allow people to see what the insides of their buildings look like before visiting. This could be helpful to budding restaurants with big focuses on atmosphere and ambiance, or even art galleries and museums. Furthermore, the service will be entirely voluntary; it's not like businesses will be forced into revealing their interiors. Unfortunately, there is a downside to all this free promotion: it's no longer free. As of January 1, 2012, Google Maps will charge businesses that make extensive use of the company's service.

I don't own any businesses, so I (and most other people I know) will go unaffected by this change in policy. Still, I'm not sure how comfortable I am with this new feature. Sure, there are upsides. Google Street View has already helped put criminals in jail for robberies and muggings around the world, but there's something about the idea of Google as a protector that unnerves me as well. Google's good intentions have a history of backfiring; it was only a year ago that the company was forced to admit that its street view cars had been collecting Wi-Fi data since 2007. That's three years worth of data snippets that could be used to...well, I have no idea, but to me it seemed like a blatant privacy violation, and it was.

I feel the need to be clear here and say I am not suggesting a boycott of Google, or even saying I do not like Google. I actually like Google; but there was something those people in Broughton felt that caused the reaction it did. Maybe it was the height of the cameras or simple crowd psychology, but the community came together and formed a line that said, "You are going too far." It's a reminder of who ubiquitous companies like Google rely on, and how the growth and advancement of these companies is dependent on the very people who are capable of physically stopping it's progress when they feel a line has been crossed. Google's unofficial slogan is "Don't Be Evil." As the company integrates itself further into our online and offline lives, I'm happy knowing that we as a society have the ability to make sure they keep their word. •

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Another Brick in the Wall Street



PHOTO BY JAVIER MILARES GONZALEZ

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Congress is not only the accomplice of Wall Street, but of every organized special interest that can mobilize. Defense contractors, healthcare giants and big oil are just a few players who "donate" money through PACs to secure votes in favor of their self-interests. If you throw a dog bone, it's not likely to turn it down; campaign finance laws are actually encouraging corporate influence in politics. Speaker of the House John Boehner and Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell serve as a simple but poignant example. Each respectively received \$56,000 and \$69,000 from oil companies in the last election, an incentive resulting in the Head of the Rules Committee and the Senate minority leader stifling any environmental action in Congress. Interest groups are more informed, motivated and willing to directly punish candidates than the general public, which makes appeasing them the number one priority.

The problem is especially prevalent in our committee and subcommittee structure, which are attuned strictly to committee interests. Committee members will never put the national

problem. David Brooks discussed last week how it could provide better opportunities for American families, and provide greater economic mobility in an age of rigid class stratification. In addition, it could provide the American public an opportunity to be taken seriously by their legislators. Because interest groups are more dedicated and informed, their seemingly insurmountable motivation holds more clout in policy production and obstruction. A critically thinking public can hold their representatives accountable to their needs, and ensure their interests are legislated.

Unfortunately, building an educated electorate isn't currently viable, as underpaid teachers and interest groups without considerable financial backing can't muster the capital to influence legislation. Just like Occupy Wall Street, environmental interest groups and others who actually represent the national interest, educational groups cannot approach Congress and say there will be repercussions for not legislating their interests. The consolidated, channeled interests of specialized groups are what get members of Congress reelected in American politics, and national interests will continue to be marginalized if they are

The problem is especially prevalent in our committee and subcommittee structure, which are attuned strictly to committee interests. Committee members will never put the national interest ahead of the constituent requests, as it is constituent interests that get them re-elected.

interest ahead of the constituent requests, as it is constituent interests that get them re-elected. As the most determined constituencies for many members are interest groups, legislation is tailored to their needs.

The Senate Armed Services Committee contains three of the four Senators most highly endorsed by defense contractors. The House Energy Committee includes many representatives who receive large sums of campaign donations from oil and gas companies. This is why Occupy Wall Street has gained so little attention in Congress: its interests aren't specialized. Unlike oil companies and defense contractors aiming to protect their profits, Occupy Wall Street is calling for broad, sweeping changes beneficial to the American public, an endeavor incompatible with committee politics.

Education could put a dent in this

not keeping members of Congress in office.

Occupy Wall Street turns out to be the perfect allegory for the American people: a group of driven, yet disorganized and fragmented individuals, with little opportunity to have their opinions translated into policy. Would \$100 campaign contribution caps or reforming the committee system be enough to give the public a voice? It's evident that special interests like Wall Street have thrust the interest of the public to the edge of the abyss, and although they are acting unethically, in many respects they are not acting illegally. Conversation is never cheap, but it must encapsulate the cause of the problem, not the result. If anyone is going to protest the presence of money in politics, they must address the system that allows money to influence policy, not just those making use of it. •



PHOTO BY CLAIRE WELBELOW STONE

OverCONFidence: Is This Generation's Self-Assuredness Its Biggest Flaw?

ALEX SCHWARTZBURG
STAFF WRITER

Only 14% of college graduates between the years 2006 to 2010 hold jobs, 44.7% of 16 to 29 year-olds don't work jobs, and a staggering one in four 25 to 34 year-olds still live with their parents. Against this backdrop, *New York* magazine's Noreen Malone highlights the extreme optimism of America's youth in the face of their society's impending collapse. She discusses the *thumos* (the strive for glory) of American youth, the all but cliché point that "for the first time ever... this generation will not be better off than its parents," the two "long-term social experiments conducted by our parents" that brought us all to where we find ourselves today, and the difference between a *summa cum laude* graduate from the Ivy League and the conformist wannabes who spent all their afternoons during high school preparing for the SATs, trying to force their way into appearing to have above average intelligence.

Here is how I presume many of you grew up. You were born in a hospital, isolated from the harsh weather conditions of the world. You were taken home, and brought into a world that—as best as you could tell—effectively revolved around you. You spent your early days in your crib playing with toy cars, surrounded by adults who would say "peek-a-boo." Everybody wanted to play with you because you were cute. You got carried around in the snugly, pushed in the stroller and taken to all sorts of places that seemed alien and strange like Wal-Mart, the doctor's office and many other locations where adults mask the fact that what they do is—for the most part—depressing. Then you went to school and experienced common growing pains: when we're three years old we all go through the "I don't wanna go!" phase.

Beyond this, I will speak only for the guys: at seven we go through the "Girls are icky!" bit. At sixteen, we see the guy in class with a girlfriend and wrongly assume we're the only ones not getting laid. Once we get to high school, we make an inference cultivated somewhat (but not entire-

ly) by our parents and teachers, under which we come to equate academic success with a successful life. In other words, we think we're doing the right thing if we're doing what we're told, and we think there is a necessary connection between doing the right thing and seeing material benefit.

What is the result?

It is very much as Malone says, "...our generation is: delayed, afraid, immature, [thinks that we are] independent, fame and glory hungry, (ambitious?), [and] weirdly apathetic when it comes to things outside of the internet." "The cold truth," however, "is that not all of us are brilliant." "We are self-centered and convinced of our specialness and [are] unaccustomed to being denied." I agree completely, especially on the social experiments comment.

"We are self-centered and convinced of our specialness and [are] unaccustomed to being denied."

Malone claims, "Our generation is the product of two long-term social experiments conducted by our parents. The first sought to create little hyperachievers encouraged to explore our interests and talents, so long as that could be spun for maximum effect on a college application... In the second experiment, which was a reaction to their own distant moms and dads, our parents tried to see how much self-confidence they could pack into us... and accordingly we were awarded clip-art Certificates of Participation just for showing up."

She quoted one person in her article who expressed an all too common sentiment of today's youth: "I worked hard (forty hours a week during most of my education), for what? Tell me what I need to do to get ahead, because I did everything right!"

I don't know if this gentleman is aware, but a week is 168 hours long. If you subtract one-third of that time

because it is occupied by sleep, then you have 112 hours left. That means that this very angry guy is upset because the job he chose, to be a college student, required him to work 35.7% of his waking hours. That's only a little over one-third of his time, and I would presume he did it with a full belly and a nice room, with a comfortable bed.

Many criticize me for claiming Americans are spoiled brats. Too bad. If I'm hearing complaints like this, and the people who make them genuinely believe their plights are legitimate, it can only be indicative of the ignorance of our population.

Here's the problem: children are raised to trust unconditionally, and too many teachers have brought into their classrooms the humanistic idea that it is in their students' interest to be sensitive, caring individuals. The inability to deviate from the school's curriculum in the face of common sense is deemed by our teachers to be a form academic excellence. The inability to deviate from common sense when presented with false information is deemed to be a form of stupidity and even worse, it is believed to be a form of behavioral dysfunction. Those kids don't have behavioral issues; they're just smarter than you! Almost by definition, since listening presupposes trust, and trust presupposes stupidity, the ability of an individual to listen to and ponder any and all information with which they're presented with is a devolutionary trait if nothing else. Those whom our contemporary educational system deems to be intelligent are either genuinely intelligent and have some use for the knowledge they're learning, or are behaviorally conditioned over time to evolve the following idea: "If the teacher assigns x, then doing x is to your benefit."

That's not how the world works. It's how we are behaviorally conditioned to believe the world works, but it is not how the world actually works. School merely redefines your concept of reward. It skews your comprehension of this concept so much that you come to believe that subjecting yourself to the stress of a project you are



A grown man forever handicapped by his maternal dependance.

paying someone else to tell you to do will yield materialistic reward in the future. Not to mention, this happens in concurrence with your parents spoiling you. Malone said it better than I ever could: "We find ourselves living among the scattered ashes and spilled red wine and broken glass from a party we watched in our pajamas, peering down the stairs at the grown-ups." This shows the ignorance of our generation and our population as a whole. What kind of a parent leaves the remnants of a party like that? Up until now, you could get away with that kind of negligence. However, our generation is quickly discovering that

the party has to come to an end. Many of us disavow that observation. I keep it at the center of my thoughts.

While I agree with Malone insofar as her analysis of the causes of our generation's problems, I do not believe that her optimism is predicated upon sound principles. It is impractical and potentially damaging for those considering a college education to believe everything will be okay because they assume that life, society and the economy will work themselves out. Their reconciliations will not reconcile your college debts, nor anyone else's. •

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Harnessing the Energy of Occupy Wall Street

HEATHER HOLMES
STAFF WRITER

Three hours after the teach-in ended in Blaustein, it was nearing midnight in the library. "Occupy Wall Street" is a phrase that has confused, frustrated and animated me this fall, but after the teach-in, I was energized. This is the mentality in which I found myself, bundled up in my favorite corner of the library. The energy in Shain was gradually dwindling, but I was just getting started.

Maybe it's the fact that I'm familiar with New London and the Connecticut College campus, but I feel confident here. I'm not the bewildered freshman I was worried I would be. However, there's one area about which I'm woefully uninformed, and that's politics. So when the Occupy movement rolled around this fall, I didn't know how to react, mostly because I'm not entirely sure where my beliefs lie on the political spectrum.

I gave it a shot, but the first general assembly hosted by the nascent CC Dissent at Coffee Grounds did more to confuse than enlighten me. Then—mostly because of my dear friend Libby Carberry's involvement—I went to the OWS teach-in in the Ernst common room. It was incredible. I don't intend to proselytize here, especially since I myself have conflicting opinions regarding the movement, but what I hope to convey more than anything else is my belief in the momentum of OWS.

As a new student exposed to varying degrees of student apathy on Conn's campus, I was stunned by the attendance at this past week's teach-

in. According to Eliza Bryant '12, one of the most involved CC Dissent-ers, nearly 200 people attended. Though a few professors encouraged or required attendance, the majority of the attendees were there by choice and it showed. What gives me even more hope is that friends of mine who range from moderate Democrats to staunch conservatives came to the teach-in for the entire two hours. In the discussions that arose in the second hour, these right-leaning individuals spoke up even in the midst of the liberal majority.

Why did I attend? Other than an allowing me to support my friend and serving as an excuse to avoid reading Plato's *Phaedo*, the teach-in presented the opportunity for me to finally learn why we're occupying Wall Street. Professors McKenna, Segrest, Howes and Kim all gave short lectures regarding the current economic crisis in terms I could easily digest. The professors did not hesitate to voice their personal opinions on the economy and the Occupy Wall Street movement. "I think the idea of a meritocracy is bullshit," said Professor Mab Segrest in direct response to a student. After years of listening to high school teachers concealing their political beliefs in class discussions, I felt as if the professors wanted to share their opinions just as much as we wanted to share ours. Finally.

In response to a student comment regarding the idealism of Occupy Wall Street, Professor David Kim urged the student and the rest of the audience to "harness the utopian energy" of the movement and use it as a propeller. I hope I never lose grasp of

his advice. I hope that if you're still reading this article, you're in active search of your cause if you haven't found one yet. If Occupy isn't your thing, it doesn't have to be your thing. As enlightening as the information regarding the current economic crisis was, I continue to be inspired by the rhetoric of the movement even more than the movement itself. The OWS dialogue can be transposed to any number of global injustices (for example, my own passion leans more towards animals than humans).

My advice: attend one of the Occupy lectures/forums/teach-ins at Conn, even if you stay for fifteen minutes or an hour. I remember the day after she first attended the Occupy Wall Street protests; Carberry told me the movement was her main source of energy and excitement. I was thrilled for her, but also somewhat envious I hadn't caught the same infectious spirit from OWS. After tonight, I know exactly what she was talking about. I am hugely impressed by the organization and determination of CC Dissent and other student activists on campus. Regardless of your political beliefs, I urge you to search for similarities rather than differences between yourself and the Wall Street protestors. It's easy to dismiss this movement as idealistic, dirty and disorganized—I should know—but what's ultimately more fulfilling is to engage with the discussion even if you disagree with it. It's unlikely you'll see me in a tent in Zuccotti Park in the near future, but I will have a front-row seat at the next Conn OWS event. See you there. •

NOVEMBER 7, 2011

Editors: Devin Cohen and Melanie Thibault
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Not In Time

JT delivers a not-so-stellar performance in a mediocre film



PHOTO FROM WEB

I'm being serious, you guys.

SAM NORCROSS
STAFF WRITER

Fifty-two. According to Metacritic.com, 52/100 is the average review of every film featuring Justin Timberlake. It's not great, and without a certain lucky break landing an Oscar-nominated role in *The Social Network* (I've heard Timberlake actually begged for that role), his score would be six points lower. But remember, this is the average score for the movies starring dear Justin, not scores reflecting the skills of the actor himself. So the question remains: is the best that N*SYNC had to offer the cause of these middling movie reviews or a victim of bad scripts?

I have neither the time nor the tenacity to wade through the body of JT's work, which ranges from unwatchable, to mediocre, to *The Social Network*. I have no interest in seeing any rom-com which features the concept of "friends with benefits" (let alone a movie titled after the cliché), and I hope to never subject myself in any way to *The Love Guru*. However, Justin's latest movie *In Time* falls under the umbrella of dystopian science fiction (the awesome-est of genres) and features the '90s pop star in a rare dramatic role.

The movie takes place in the future (evident by the shiny, round-edged cars) where time is the currency. Humans have been genetically altered through the power of future science to have glowing digital clocks imprinted

on their left arms, which begin to count down from one year until the clock runs out at age twenty-five.

Time is used as money ("Four minutes for a cup of coffee?!"), and when your time runs out, you die. Just as time can be spent, it can also be earned, either through hard work, gambling or theft. And if you can earn time in greater multitudes than you can spend it, you could live forever.

The concept of this movie is undoubtedly awesome, so I should have liked it. Not only does one literally wear his wealth on his sleeve, but that wealth is directly tied to one's life span. The countdown concept makes for some truly tense moments as the audience watches some of the characters approach death.

In Time is *Logan's Run* meets capitalism, and it could have made for an interesting political or economic commentary. But instead, the film stretches its concept thinly over the dull familiar beats of a mediocre action flick, squandering all its potential by pandering to the American mass market. It takes some hard swings at Wall Street, but any attempts at true political commentary feel awkward and obvious when placed in between car chases and bank robberies.

So, in this case, Justin had the script working against him. Did he rise above? Did he transcend his Marky-Mark roots and rise

toward the Oscar-nominated Mark Wahlberg? No, he did not. I apologize if you believe that Timberlake can do it all, because he cannot be an action star.

He tries. His head is shaved à la Jason Statham, and he has the appropriate amount of Bruce Willis stubble. But every time he opens his mouth and attempts to deliver a line with any sort of weight or roughness, his entire image is deflated.

JT plays a character named Will Salas: a working class average Joe, living on hours at a time to support his mom, played by Olivia Wilde, because in this universe people don't age past twenty-five.

There's only one moment when Timberlake manages to seem entirely badass — he shoots three people in rapid succession — but as soon as he speaks, the illusion is broken and his boy band past glares through his tough-guy impression.

Don't get me wrong. I don't think Timberlake is a terrible actor. He's surprisingly good at being funny, and the rom-com genre fits him like a glove, but giving the lead to Justin Timberlake in a movie like this is almost as bad as giving Robert Pattinson the lead in *The Fifth Element*.

It should be restated that the poor casting of Justin Timberlake as a working-class badass was not the downfall of this movie. *In Time* was doomed to

mediocrity as soon as writer/director Andrew Nicol decided to start writing the script right after he watched *Transformers* with MSNBC on in the background.

As the movie progresses, it obscures its intriguing core with jumbled clichés from a variety of action movie standards, and then attempts to tack on a bullshit condemnation of capitalism. Early in the movie, someone close to Will dies, and Justin kneels down and screams to the sky with all the watery angst he can muster. He then blames the upper class (when it's really just the fault of a bus driver) and decides that the rich need to be punished.

He makes his way to the New Greenwich "time zone," where the wealthiest in the land reside. Here he meets his inevitably hot female counterpart in the form of Sylvia Weis (played by Amanda Seyfried), the sheltered daughter of the richest man in New Greenwich, who is a bank owner, and thus evil.

Will and Sylvia then run off together to do all those things that poor people know how to do but rich people don't, like shooting guns and swimming in the ocean. At some point they start robbing banks because "it's not stealing if it's already been stolen." The movie then turns into a mix between a bank heist and Robin Hood, except instead of the elaborate planning and scheming involved in movies like *Ocean's 11* or *Inside Man*, all you need to rob a future bank is a big truck capable of smashing through walls.

My biggest problem with the film is that the motivation for each of these characters makes no sense. The phrase about stealing is repeated multiple times throughout the film, suggesting that the rich in the movie (and potentially the wealthy of America) only became so through crime and corruption, even though *In Time* presents no evidence to back that up, except for maybe a random throwaway line about how the government uses time taxes to reduce population.

There's a second phrase which is also repeated: "Many must die in order for few to be immortal," a reference to the idea that the rich are prospering at the direct suffering of the poor, which is entirely unsubstantiated. Its solution to the economic inequality seems to resemble pure anarchy, in which everyone is free to steal as much time (money) as they want.

This movie could have been brilliant sci-fi if it spent more time exploring its fascinating concept. Instead, it settles for throwing around at least two dozen time-related puns and falling back on tropes of modern day action movies. •

Dear Tick, You Suck

Deer Tick's latest album *Divine Providence* is not so infectious

HEATHER HOLMES
STAFF WRITER



PHOTO FROM WEB

Within the first six or seven minutes of *Divine Providence*, you know what's up with Deer Tick. "I got a lust for life and a dangerous mind," screeches John McCauley on "The Bump", *Divine Providence*'s opening track. The chorus of choice? "We're full-grown men but we act like kids." I was immediately drawn to the album because of the earnest, raucous imperfection of "The Bump" that recalled Deer Tick's earlier albums, especially 2007's *War Elephant*. What I found instead throughout the rest of *Divine Providence* was a drunken, apathetic "fuck you" to both genre and audience.

McCauley's signature croak and the rest of the band's rowdy instrumentals are the cornerstones of Deer Tick's success among fans, not to mention that their Providence, Rhode Island roots are a point of pride for many New Englanders. *War Elephant*, arguably Deer Tick's finest album, showcases the band's sense of refined storytelling that weaves itself in and out of their goofy, unpolished rock. On *Divine Providence*, though, Deer Tick no longer really cares whether we like their music and message or not. This bravado could theoretically work well, but in the absence of anthems to back up the attitude, *Divine Providence* falls flat.

Nearly everything on this album concerns booze, the highlight track being—big surprise—"Let's All Go to the Bar." Declares McCauley, "I don't care if you puke in my ride, baby, just as long as you take your piss outside." I was looking forward to a gin-soaked jam I could blast with all the windows down. Deer Tick instead ends up sounding like The Ramones with a little sprinkle of Kenny Chesney, and the song could be a soft cover of Black Flag's "Gimme Gimme Gimme" or "TV Party."

As for the songwriting in *Divine Providence*, I'm not really sure where to begin. On *War Elephant*'s "Long Time," McCauley crooned, "Thank god I never lost you, you lost me/And I'm as hollow as the

heart that fell to my feet/And I believe there's a way to shut the things you don't need out." His heartbreaking gift for storytelling dissipates on *Divine Providence*, giving way to songs like "Chevy Express" that show Deer Tick at its absolute worst. Need a sample? "That kid was cute, that kid ate fruit/Then that kid was found in a blanket." "Walkin' Out the Door," "Make Believe" and "Electric" are all just as lyrically banal, and unimaginative instrumentally. Maybe there were moments of originality on *War Elephant*, but Deer Tick was goofier and just a little bit more diffident then, so these moments aren't the ones I will remember.

Are there highlights? For sure. On "Clownin' Around," despite its name, Deer Tick approaches solemn introspection as best they can on this album. "Something to Brag About" is one of the few songs I'll revisit from *Divine Providence*, and I'll give the lusty "Miss K." another try. Deer Tick tries out political/social commentary on "Main Street" ("Miss one speech and you're uninformed to tears") and "Chevy Express" ("Drugs and terror, which one's better/Mother nature's wagging a war"). Over the course of almost fifty minutes, though, there's no tie that binds except Deer Tick's apparent lack of enthusiasm.

I bought the album for \$9.99 on iTunes instead of stealing it online only because I've seen Deer Tick live and I think they're incredibly talented and entertaining. After listening to *Divine Providence*, though, I feel like I intruded on something Deer Tick didn't want me to be a part of. They probably would have rather taken the ten dollars (or whatever profit they're actually making) and used it as toilet paper. By the fifth song, I couldn't wait for the album to end. "When you close that door behind you, I'll carry on feeling no regrets," sings McCauley on "Make Believe." Clearly, the feeling was mutual: Deer Tick didn't give a shit whether I stayed or left. •



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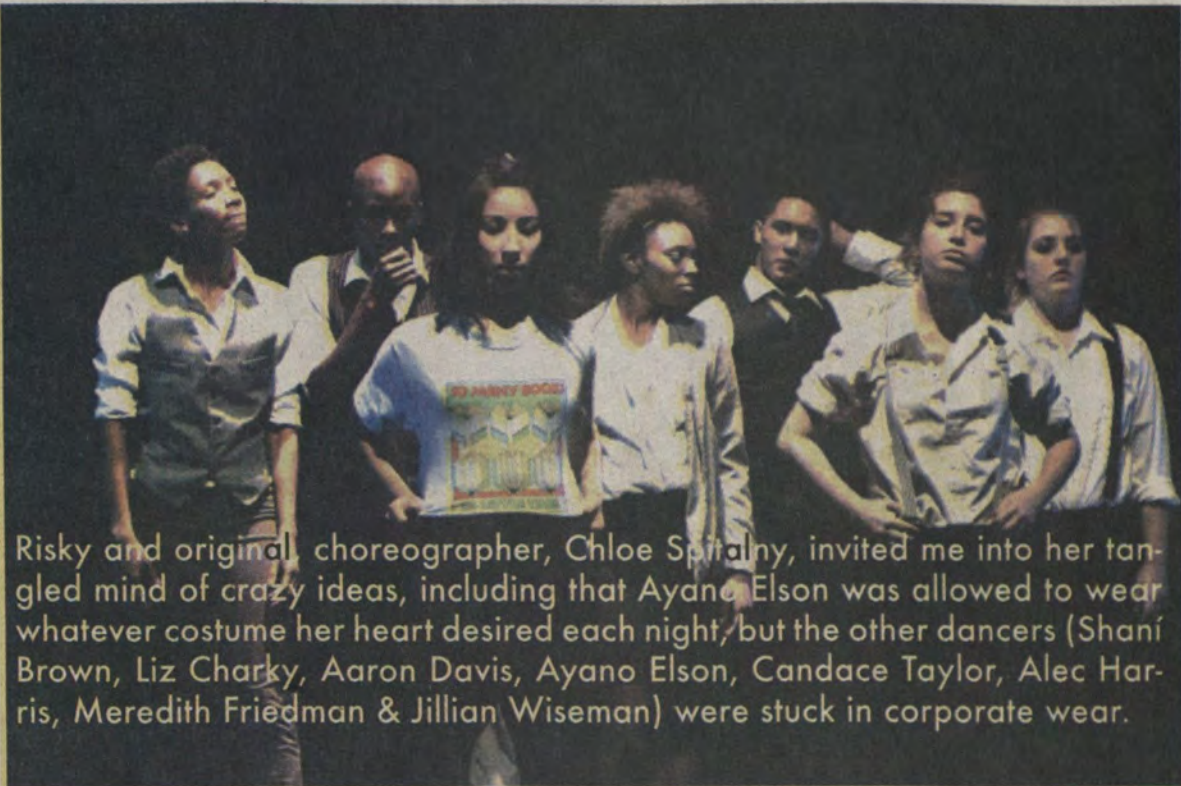
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P.S. I You



Alex Hsu (above) sneaks onstage, his limbs melding into angular shapes transitioning in and out of luscious arm circles and waves. Mid-dance, four dancers make a 10-second appearance, planting a gold scream mask onto Hsu's face. At one point, the "woh woh" down beats of the music seemed to seep from his gold framed mouth. A friend seated next to me didn't exhale until Hsu pointed to us and the lights dimmed, ending the piece.



Risky and original, choreographer, Chloe Spitalny, invited me into her tangled mind of crazy ideas, including that Ayano Elson was allowed to wear whatever costume her heart desired each night, but the other dancers (Shaní Brown, Liz Charky, Aaron Davis, Ayano Elson, Candace Taylor, Alec Harris, Meredith Friedman & Jillian Wiseman) were stuck in corporate wear.

MIGUEL SALCEDO/STAFF

Liz Charky choreographed and danced a beautiful piece, releasing and tensing her body to fragmented sounds, in front of a black and white video.



Ayano Elson (choreographer) tests dancers Liz Charky's, Abby Reich's, Rhea Corson-Higgs' and Chloe Spitalny's limits by placing them each on a cinder block. With space constriction, some dancers decide to melt the movement, carefully peeling their foot from the block. Others jerk around, almost falling. The goal is to stay balanced on the block. The side lighting, blue mids and white shines, complimented the dance beautifully, shining on the dancers to create an eerie, but gentle tunnel of light.

MINDY TORO
CONTRIBUTOR



History's Best Bro-down Comes to Conn

L.A. Theater Works' historical play tells the story of the Lincoln-Douglas debates

KYLE DAVID SMITH
STAFF WRITER

The political environment that exists today in the United States is dominated by professional politicians manufactured especially to be elected. Perfectly groomed hair, flag lapel pins and the perfect tie have all become part of the political game — a game where for some, the ultimate goal is holding office and moving up the political ladder at all costs. The audience of *The Rivalry*, presented Friday night in Palmer by L.A. Theatre Works and onStage, was reminded that this wasn't always the case, and that even politicians locked in cutthroat, history-defining competition can be willing to lay down their dreams for the good of their nation:

Modeled on the historic Lincoln-Douglas debates, *The Rivalry* tells the story of two politicians that embodied their era like no others, each out to alter the course of history at a time in which future of our nation hung in a tender balance. In 1858, Stephen A. Douglas, then incumbent Senator of Illinois, was the most famous public man in all of America, even more well-known and influential than then-President, James Buchanan. In *The Rivalry*, Douglas is made out to be a self-satisfied man, a polished speaker and most likely the closest man the time had to a professional politician. Lincoln, on the other hand, is seen as tall, lanky, and — at times — unconventional. Despite this, Lincoln is a fantastic character, with the power to captivate and move the audience with perfectly told and timed yarns, and a combination of great emotion and impermeable logic that is undeniably absorbing.

Robert Parsons, who played Lincoln, fit the role impeccably, with speeches

fired off so full of passion that it's hard to believe that they're scripted. It was also worth noting how perfectly Parsons fits the role in stature; his silhouette on stage, adorned with Lincoln's signature stovepipe-top-hat, sends chills.

When I was considering what this play may possibly be like, I was a bit concerned that it would fall short of conventional intellectual entertainment. Everyone loves plays, but plays based on historical debate? I was skeptical, even as a self-professed history nerd.

Within moments of the play's beginning, however, all traces of skepticism went out the door. It's one thing to watch a modern political debate on television, but it's another thing entirely to watch a believable enactment of a world-changing historical debate, based upon real stenographic record. The context of the Lincoln-Douglas debates is important to remember; they came at a time when our nation was ideologically divided along pro-slavery and abolitionist lines. There were already talks of breaking the union, which of course came three years later with the commencement of the Civil War. The Lincoln-Douglas debates became prominent nationally as a stage for the fleshing out of the main issues of slavery.

Lincoln, a Republican, supported the abolition of slavery, purporting radical ideas such as the equality of all men and races. In words taken from Lincoln in debate, "If God gave him but little, that little let him enjoy." Douglas, on the other hand, spoke to his Democratic base by arguing the superiority of the white race and right for states to decide for themselves whether slave owning would be legal. The debates themselves were fiery and tense, as both men were obviously adamant about the validity of

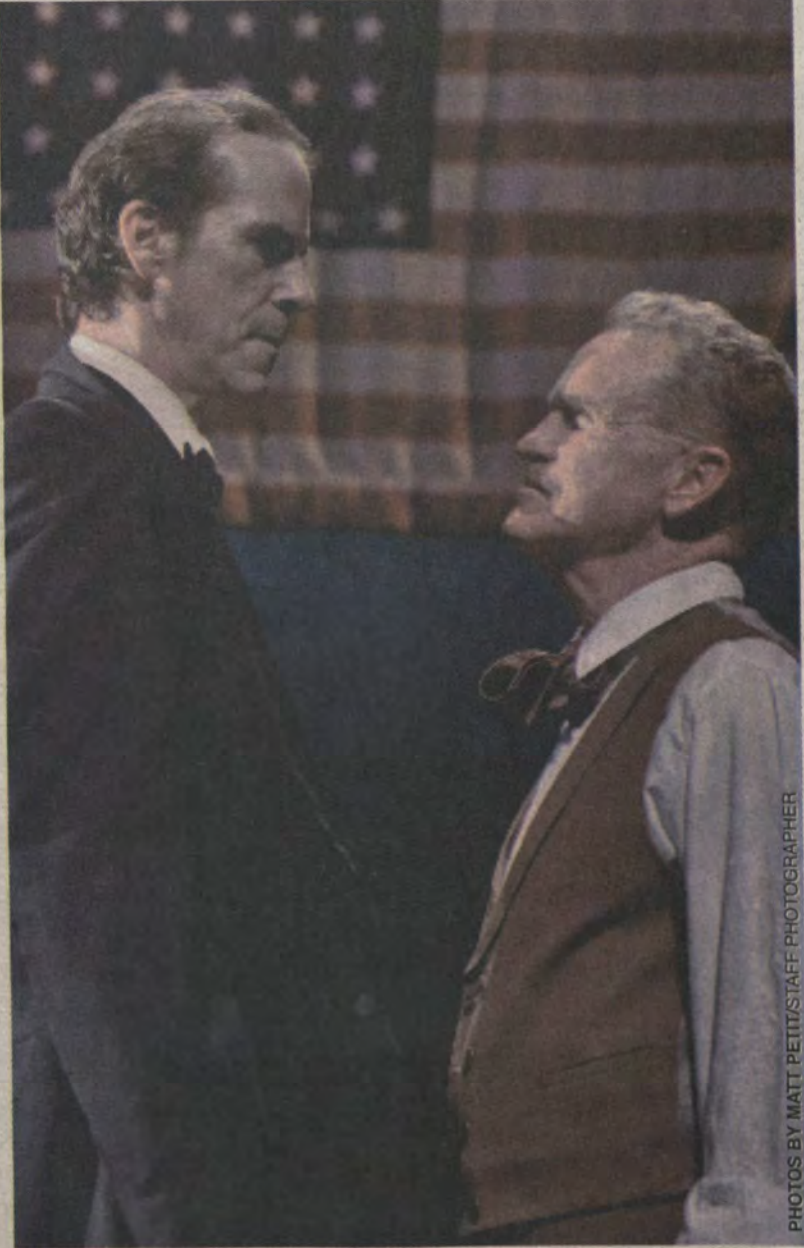
their views. As the debates increased in size, the speeches improved, especially on the part of Lincoln. Douglas at times reduced himself to making personal attacks, in a move that conjures up images of the politicians we see campaigning nowadays.

Douglas, played by Josh Clark, is a puzzling figure. His reputation from his day has to be respected, but his methods, without touching his opinions, are questionable. Due to what can likely be attributed to high-handed political maneuvers, Douglas wins the Senatorial election, leaving Lincoln and his passionate political voice empty-handed. Yet due to the publicity received because of the Lincoln-Douglas debates, Abraham Lincoln is catapulted into the national spotlight, and eventually, as we all know, the presidency.

More importantly, the context leading to Lincoln's ascent to presidency is presented in the heart-wrenching Second Act. His biggest opponent in the 1860 election is none other than Stephen Douglas. Their last clash in the Illinois Senatorial Election left the two men as rivals with great deals of respect for one another. In a heartbreaking scene, Douglas privately concedes to Lincoln, telling Adele that he stands no chance to Lincoln nationally. Adele, previously the voice of reason, prods Douglas to push onward, denying that Lincoln has him beat. Douglas, however, has other interests in mind than his desire to be in the White House; rather than campaign onward, Douglas reveals to Adele that he plans to begin a series of campaign stops in the south to urge his conservative constituency not to secede from the Union. In essence, this is political suicide on the part of Douglas, and one must consider the gravity of the situa-

tion put up against his egotism. Douglas sacrifices his political career and his dreams for the betterment of the nation,

in a move that can only be called one of the most courageous and selfless in political history. •



PHOTOS BY MATT PETIT/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Lincoln and Douglas square-off in a battle of who's the bigger man.

Ending Homophobia in Athletics

Diversity panel engages in important discussion on issue of sexuality in sports

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Heterosexism and homophobia are linked by the oppression and discrimination that they promote. Heterosexism, which is the presumption that everyone is heterosexual, may not be explicitly homophobic, but it allows for assumptions that place limitations on the LGBTQ community.

Brenner Green '12, who was unable to attend the panel, is openly gay and is the co-captain of the men's cross country team. In May 2010, Green had his film debut in *Out For the Long Run*, a documentary in which he shared his story of being an out athlete in high school and college. He stated that his coaches and teammates on the men's track and field and cross country teams at Conn have supported him fully.

Green offered this statement about the role of heterosexism in sports: "The topic of heterosexism in athletics is largely overlooked. We talk about homophobia in athletics and with heterosexual athletes, but we do not look at the social phenomenon of heterosexism that affects the institution of sports. Heterosexism in the context of sports is both the presumption that all athletes are heterosexual and the implicit idea that heterosexual athletes are superior to non-heterosexual athletes. Coaches, athletic directors and athletes must work to end heterosexism in sports so that all sexual orientations and gender identities are both expected and ac-

Though the NCAA recently created a new policy that protects transgender athletes, there is much work to be done in eliminating homophobia from athletics.

Coaches, athletic directors and athletes must work to end heterosexism in sports so that all sexual orientations and gender identities are both expected and accepted in athletics.

After Manion's presentation, Rosario showed a few clips from the documentary film *Training Rules*, which is about the former women's basketball coach at Penn State, Rene Portland, known for her rules of "no drinking, no drugs and no lesbians."

Before introducing panelists Dumont and Brice, Rosario pointed out that we still don't have many out athletes on our campus, and praised the bravery of the students on the panel.

Dumont, a member of the varsity women's ice hockey team, shared her personal story of being out on her high school and college teams. "I see myself as an athlete who is also gay," stat-

well together on the field.

"Coaches have always been concerned with the team dynamic and with having a team that does what it's supposed to do," said Fran Shields, Director of Athletics at Conn. Shields went on to point out that heterosexual relationships off the field can also affect an athlete's performance. He ended his statement by saying, "I know that there have been issues of homophobic slurs on campus and I want you to know that we are still thinking and talking about them."

The conversation then transitioned to what we can do as a campus community to make homophobia in athletics less of an issue for our students. Manion began the discussion by posing a question to the audience: "We need to ask [closeted athletes]: what are they afraid they are going to lose? And then ask what we can do to change the community so that the fear is less real."

One attendee pointed out that the fear often goes beyond campus, stating that there may be more to lose with one's families and friends at home. Another student expressed a fear that he believes many athletes have about losing the camaraderie in the locker room if there is a discomfort with an LGBTQ-identified teammate.

Manion countered this idea with another thought-provoking question: "Concerns about the discomfort of the group is too often privileged over the

In Defense of Our "Camel Pride"

Frederick McNulty refutes Nick Rodricks' claim that Conn needs a greater commitment to athletics

FREDERICK MCNULTY
STAFF WRITER

No article in recent days has ignited debate on The College Voice's website as "Where is our Camel Pride?" by Nick Rodricks '12 has. And with good reason: Rodricks' article lambasts the student body for a perceived lack of school spirit in a controversial, confrontational manner. He argues that the "enthusiasm found at other schools is nearly absent at Connecticut College," that the students are "often late" to the few games they actually attend, and that the "facilities are often lacking." While many of the comments on the website have regressed into personal attacks on Rodricks, the commenters are right: his article is deeply problematic.

I mainly take issue with the attitude with which the article is comprised. In a telling admission, Rodricks writes, "There is no more tangible way to measure a school's success than in columns of wins and losses." For a small Division III liberal arts college, such logic hardly seems to apply. Athletics are indeed a strong part of the community, but many students take issue with the idea that we should be judged primarily by our athletic success. Many students, myself included, came to Connecticut College with the impression that it is a college that supports athletics, as opposed to an institution dominated by them.

To Rodricks, however, the school should not only be judged by our athletic performances, but governed by them as well. At one point in the article, he argues that the Tempel Green should be taken away from the students as a common area and turned into an athletic playing field. "[Tempel Green] is an excellent place for congregating, barbecues and hacky sack, but this should not be its main purpose," he proposes, before going on to suggest, "if someone were to take the initiative and raise the money to put artificial turf on one of the fields of the main green it would be game over, a guaranteed boost in school spirit." Apparently, the school should be willing to make major renovations and take away a popular common area for students based on an unsubstantiated claim.

The article continues by advocating for the school to spend tens of thousands of dollars to satisfy Rodricks' personal athletic needs. In addition to expensive renovations to Tempel Green, he would like to see "actual seating around Silfen Field," "[the] fitness center built exclusively for [our] athletes," and "new weight rooms." I am sure that there are certain aspects of our athletic department that could use some change. That being said, proposing such radical and expensive changes seems to ignore that athletes are not the only ones on the campus for whom the college budget is allocated.

"Building a new gym was an excellent step in the right direction but eliminating the old one in favor of a dance studio made some athletes angry," writes Rodricks. He is entirely right — there probably were "some athletes" who were angry that the school decided to build a dance studio, instead of giving varsity athletes two whole gymnasiums to themselves. Rodricks believes that our school population should whole-heartedly support students who put time and effort into physical activities, even if individuals aren't terribly fond of these events. He even goes as far as to say that the

school should spend tens of thousands of dollars so that varsity athletes—like him—will have more than ample resources. However, once this logic is applied to other physical activities—such as dance—he suddenly changes his tone.

Later, Rodricks continues, "Varsity teams attempting to train in the offseason find that there are no fields available (as many club sports have priority) and that poor maintenance often stands in the way." According to the article, club athletes and dancers should have less of a priority on campus than varsity athletes.

Talk to many returning students or browse any page on ConnCollegeConfessional and you will no doubt see someone criticizing varsity athletes (specifically "lax bros") and their subsequent culture.

Of course, this article fits into a wider divide on campus between varsity athletes and the rest of the student population. Talk to many returning students or browse any page on *ConnCollegeConfessional* and you will, no doubt, see someone criticizing varsity athletes (specifically "lax bros") and their subsequent culture. A lot of students view the relatively recent change of the school mascot from an adorable, docile camel to an angry, aggressive one as a change in the school's attitude towards athletes. Some go as far as to claim that athletes receive preferential treatment.

Many athletes, as displayed in Rodricks' article, do not agree: they argue that "athletes are generally under represented." While I would not go as far as some to propose that the school is totally on the side of athletes on every issue, I think that it is hard to make the argument that the administration does not wholeheartedly support them. Rodricks not only argues for even more "representation" (whatever that means), but he also supports "a change in culture" based on the "refreshing arrogance about their athletes" that other schools allegedly possess. I suspect that there are many students on campus who see arrogance concerning athletics as anything but "refreshing."

Should the students at Connecticut College demonstrate more pride in their own campus? That is a very difficult question. What objective standard does one make such a subjective judgment with? Is the college economically impacted by the current degree of school spirit? How much should a Division III school invest in its athletics programs? These are all valid questions that students have a right to discuss. However, denigrating the non-varsity athletes, demanding that the school spend tens of thousands of dollars for the benefit for a select few students and making unsubstantiated assumptions hardly seems like an appropriate way to tackle these questions. •



Doctor Jen Manion addresses the homophobia panel on challenging the notion of heteronormativity in the sports world.

cepted in athletics. Once the institution of sports is improved for athlete equality, we can then work towards tackling homophobia in athletics."

"Sports, more than any other area of society, is still rigidly divided by gender," stated Manion. "It is still persistently homophobic." This inequity has been most visibly present in collegiate athletics. Women were often kept out of sports until the passage of Title IX in 1972, which rules in opposition to the discrimination against athletes on the basis of sex. Still, the LGBTQ community has not been offered the same level of protection.

Manion shared her own experience with homophobia in athletics, even before she came out in college: "I was very athletic when I was younger. I came from a community where women's sports were really embraced, but I was subtly told time and time again that I should watch out for the lesbians who lingered on the softball field."

ed Dumont. "Being out and an athlete wasn't something I really had to think about."

Brice, a dance minor, "knew the second [he] got involved in dance, [he] would be labeled as not only gay, but [effeminate]." Nevertheless, he decided to join the dance program at Conn and has not regretted his decision.

The discussion then became more open-ended, as the panel's attendees were invited to ask questions and participate in a conversation on the topic. Dumont expanded upon her views specifically pertaining to lesbian athletes.

"There is an assumption that if you're really into sports and you're a girl, you're a lesbian. There is a fear about the team dynamic. The concern is that if you have lesbians on the team, they will all fall in love with each other and cause drama," said Dumont.

This should not be an issue for athletic teams, however. The main focus should be on having a team that works

isolation of that one individual. Why is the gay person the problem instead of the culture and the disrespect of the majority?"

Brice ended the conversation with some encouraging words: "What I've gained by coming out is the respect of my community. I want more people to respect themselves and who they are, and to be brave."

The final comment of the event was from an attendee who had graduated from a college that did not have strong support for its LGBTQ community. Expressing her excitement about the panel, she stated, "It's great that we are able to come together and have these kinds of conversations." Still, though there has been much progress in combating homophobia in athletics, there is much work to be done. Therefore, we shouldn't forget to keep these conversations going in the future. •

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Aaron Davis Masters Mind and Body

Multi-talented performer discusses the intersections of being a runner, singer and dancer

LIBBY CARBERRY
STAFF WRITER

Aaron Davis '14 is known across campus for being a bit of a mini-superhero, mastering his passions in running, dancing and singing. Davis runs track and cross-country, majors in dance and sings in an a cappella group, Williams Street Mix. I talked with him about balancing such diverse passions and hobbies and what it means to blur the line between athleticism and art at Conn.

Libby Carberry: How were you introduced to Conn? Why are you such an active member of the community here?

Aaron Davis: I was introduced to Conn first when my older sister graduated from here in 2004. Before then, she brought me and my eight brothers and sisters on campus, so I kind of knew the community before, but in a different context, like a middle schooler looking in. Then I applied to the Williams School, and got a scholarship from Williams. I also took a dance class [at Conn] through the New London Scholars Program, which is tuition free, and got a feel for college before you actually go to college. I took 251 with Shani Collins and was introduced to West African technique. I loved the atmosphere of the dancers ... I felt at home, which was inevitable because I'm from New London.

LC: Was being in such a big family influential?

AD: Clearly! I don't know, because I was in such a big family, I realized I had such a strong support, not only from my siblings, but from a mother, two grandparents who are always there and the nieces and nephews that I have. It created a venue for you to really do what you like and know that there are people pushing for you and want you to do the best that you can. And also teaching them and growing with them. So I definitely feel like being in a big family is something so invaluable for me.

LC: What was it like to be the first one in your family to go to a private school? As the second to youngest, how did you take it?

AD: It was bittersweet, because I knew that I was the only one to experience an education that presented more opportunities, just because

[Williams] had more funded money. At this time, the arts in New London public schools were cut. My sister who loved the clarinet couldn't play because they cut the music department. I could do a cappella, band, jazz band ... I wanted to make sure I wasn't taking things for granted. It upset me because I knew that I was able to do all these things, and then when I told all my brothers and sisters I was taking Latin ... they didn't know what it was. I would have to take a stand to be active in my learning.

LC: So you've always had incredible perspective. How did that perspective drive you as a student and human being?

AD: I have a more focused direction of what I want to do. It all came from being self-aware in a positive way about what I wanted to do and why I was where I was. Why I was taking the classes I was taking, what I could be doing at that point in my life as a seventh grader.

I think the main thing that I learned is being able to communicate with people and realize that everything is connected and draw from different experiences and correlate and make those things come together. Not force the connection, but see the connections. Whether it be from the arts, dance, arts and humanities ... it really put me in a

manding. How do the body and mind relate in your experiences?

AD: The body and the mind are almost inextricably linked. By training the body, you're also training the mind. Both running and dancing – though they might be seen as in different places, dancing is in the studio or on the stage and running is outside on a track – you really do see a connection between having a really strong mental capacity in order to get through some of the physical things you're going through.

It helps me balance a lot of things. Whether it is just going to do homework, it helps me have a clear fo-

provision when things come at you that you didn't expect.

LC: Performance is an important aspect in dance and a cappella, at least it is very obvious as you perform in a very specific frame: a stage. Do you find performance in running as well?

AD: Performance is definitely something that we all do, whether we're aware of it or not. We perform on stage, but it doesn't just have to be on stage. When I go to a meet or even when I'm running in practice, I'm training for a performance, I'm rehearsing for a performance. They're all performances in a way.

I don't think that a performance has to be related to an audience. If there's just one person watching you that could be a performance, or you could just perform for yourself. It's easier to perform for yourself. When you're running that's all you have. If you don't have this big group of people in the middle of the woods when you're taking a run, you're performing for yourself, you are the audience. Sometimes it's easier to see a performance in light of an audience. I think that's what makes you proud of what you're doing, because I'm not performing as just Aaron Davis, but as a member of a community in New

training, why do you do both?

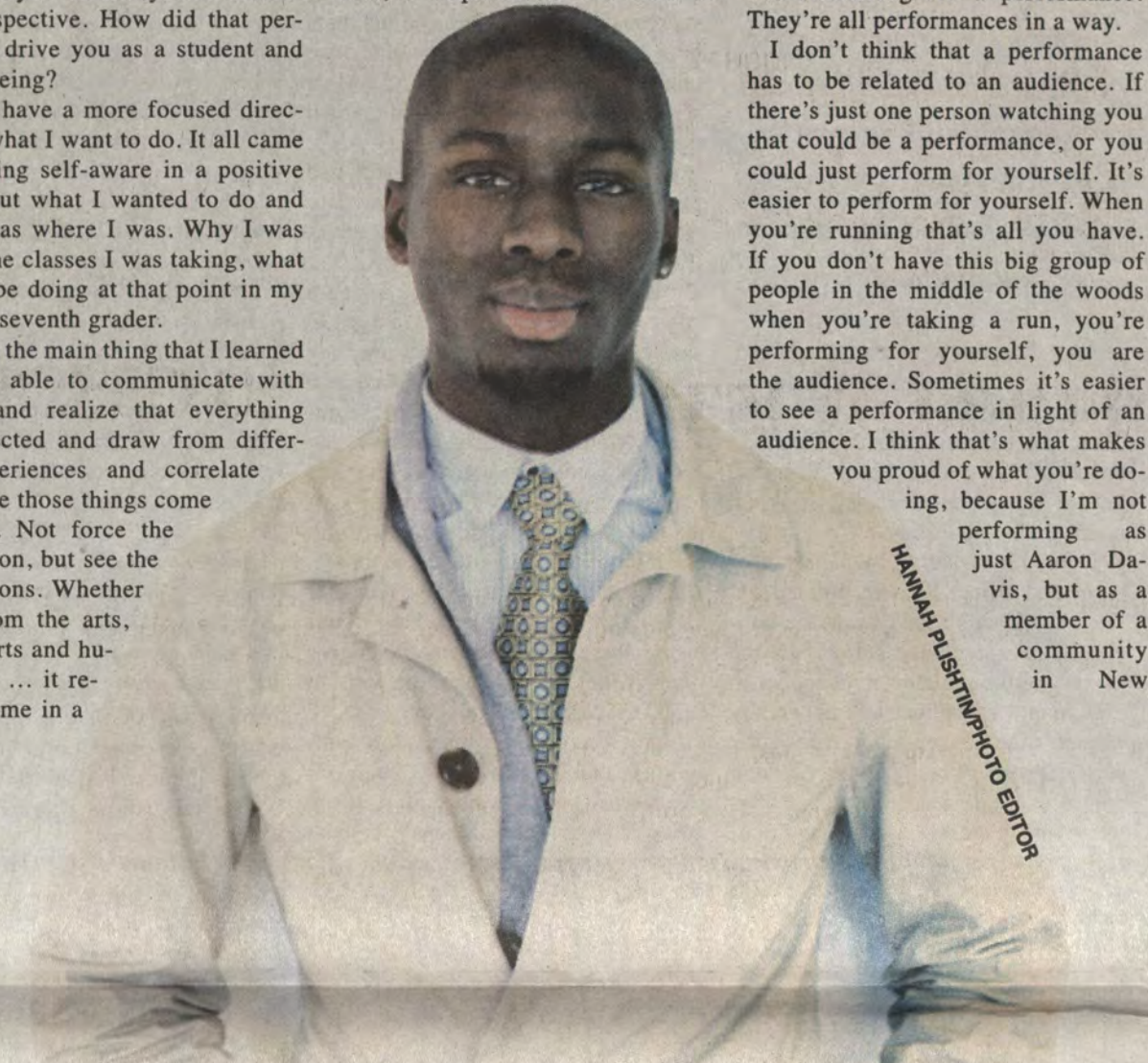
AD: I do both because they inform my body differently, and I like that. I'm not pigeon-holing myself as just a runner, just a dancer. I'm informing my body differently so that when I encounter something, I can pull from both running and dancing. I can relate more than to just one or the other ... The main reason I'm able to do both dance and athletics is because both departments support each other given that my coach and teachers are flexible. Big thanks to Coach Butler.

LC: Do you find dancing or running more or less of an art than the other?

AD: I think they're both art. I think movement is art. That's how I see it. To be able to move and express yourself through the body is something I'm really interested in and to be able to say so much through movement in the body, I don't think it gets more artistic than that. Just by walking, it can be so mundane, it just takes a person to raise that question and then you realize, oh, everything we do is art.

LC: What is your proudest moment in athletics and the arts?

AD: I think the proudest moment I had in linking dance and running and also a cappella, was when last year in the fall during the faculty dance show, Shani Collins cast me in her piece 'Lulling In A New Plantation Economy,' in a role where someone would be running for about a good 12-15 minutes just in place, and then slowly moving downstage. And I never stopped running until the end of the piece. At first I was like, oh that's it? And then I thought about it more, and how it related to the piece. It seemed so mundane, but as I went deeper into it, it became really profound and wonderful. There's this one rock, running for peace, happiness, for joy; running away from something. And of course with the role I felt comfortable because I was a runner so I knew, just focus on your form, and then the form went out the window! I dunno, Coach might've thought my form was a little rough. [laughs] I did appreciate combining those two. Then after I was running I sang the lullaby, I finished the piece with the lullaby and then others on stage began running. It was a nice cycle. •



Whether singing, dancing or running, Aaron Davis '14 performs on more than one stage.

trans-cultural, interdisciplinary perspective, as well as taught me how to be open minded and take things in a way that things can be connected even if you think they're not.

LC: Running and dancing are both very physically and mentally de-

cus and engage in things a little bit more. Running and dancing can both be seen as improvisation. This past race for the New England Division 3, I lost my shoe. I didn't think it was gonna happen, but it did and I kept going. You're always thinking and it helps you in life. You learn to im-

London, as a Conn Camel, as a community of dancers, of runners in the New England division...

LC: So if dance and running are so similar, through performance, improvisation, physicality and mental

IN CASE YOU MISSED IT SCORES

Men's Cross Country:
18th place out of 51
ECAC Division III Championships

Men's Water Polo (2-18):
Conn 4 - MIT 12
Conn 3 - Brown 17
Northern Division Championships

Women's Cross Country:
22nd place out of 45
ECAC Division III Championships

Women's Volleyball (18-8):
Conn 0 - Middlebury 3

SO YOU DON'T MISS IT GAMES

Women's Sailing
Atlantic Coast Championships @
SUNY Maritime
11/12 9:00 AM

Women's Cross Country
New England Division III
Championships @ Bowdoin
11/12 11:00 AM

Men's and Women's Ultimate Frisbee
"Don't Freeze Your Disc Off"
Tournament
11/12 9:00 AM

Men's Cross Country
New England Division III
Championships @
Bowdoin
11/12 12:00 PM

NESCAC POWER RANKINGS

COMPILED BY THE COLLEGE VOICE



This is the fifth installment of the NESCAC Power Ranking. The Power Ranking will be posted weekly and will rank the eleven NESCAC schools based on football, men's and women's soccer, field hockey, and volleyball.

For the fifth straight week, Amherst sits atop the rankings. Amherst solidified itself as the top football team in the conference with a win over Trinity. The Lord Jeffs also captured both the Men's and Women's soccer crowns. Bowdoin won their first volleyball championship and seventh field hockey title. Conn volleyball dropped a 3-0 decision to Middlebury in the opening round of the NESCAC playoffs.

	SCHOOL	FOOTBALL	MEN'S SOCCER	WOMEN'S SOCCER	FIELD HOCKEY	VOLLEYBALL	AVERAGE	LAST WEEK
	AMHERST	1	1	1	3	5	2.2	1 ↔
	MIDDLEBURY	5	5	3	2	2	3.4	2 ↔
	TRINITY	2	2	10	4	4	4.4	3 ↔
	WILLIAMS	3	4	2	6	7	4.4	T-4 ↑
	BOWDOIN	8	10	8	1	1	5.6	T-4 ↓
	TUFTS	10	6	5	5	3	5.8	4 ↓
	WESLEYAN	4	3	4	7	11	5.8	7 ↑
	COLBY	7	8	7	11	8	8.2	10 ↑
	CONN COLL	—	7	11	9	6	8.25	9 ↔
	HAMILTON	9	9	6	8	10	8.4	8 ↓
	BATES	6	11	9	10	9	9.0	11 ↔

The poll was devised as follows: Sports Editors, Dan Moorin and Jesse Moskowitz ranked all NESCAC schools in each sport. These rankings were based on NESCAC standings as well as quality wins and influential losses to NESCAC opponents. These scores were averaged to create a composite overall ranking for each school. Note that Connecticut College does not participate in football.